## U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney Eastern District of California

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MEDIA ADVISORY May 28, 2004

## PRESS CONFERENCE

## UNITED STATES ATTORNEY AND DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO SHARE \$2.75 MILLION IN FORFEITED ASSETS TO STATE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

SACRAMENTO--On Tuesday, June 1, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, and Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Michelle Leonheart, will host a ceremony at which the United States Department of Justice will present equitable sharing checks to state and local law enforcement agencies that participated in a significant precursor chemical prosecution against Custom Lab Supply located in Oakland, California. In combating the methamphetamine epidemic in California's Central Valley, local, state, and federal enforcement agencies designed a strategy to target commercial suppliers of chemicals and equipment used in the production of methamphetamine. The investigation ultimately led to Custom Lab, which was found to be responsible for over 50% of cash sales of such chemicals and equipment.

The checks, which together represent more than \$2.75 million in funds forfeited to the United States in connection with the prosecution, will be distributed to: The Stanislaus Drug Enforcement Agency, Sacramento Police Department, California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement and the California Highway Patrol.

Representatives of state and local agencies will include Stanislaus County Sheriff Les Weidman, Sacramento Police Chief Albert Najera, Assistant Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol Mike Nivens, and the California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement's Senior Agent-In-Charge Gil Van ArtenHoven.

The ceremony will be held at the United States Attorney's Office in Sacramento located at 501 I Street, Suite 10-100. Camera equipment will need to be inspected by the Court Security Personnel when arriving on the first floor of the courthouse. Camera staff will be escorted to the U.S. Attorney's Office by US Attorney personnel.

For general questions regarding this press conference, please contact Patty Pontello at (916) 554-2706.